

## REMARKS

Upon entry of this Preliminary Amendment, claims 9-11 and 15-16 will be canceled and thus claims 1-8, 12-14, and 17-20 will be pending.

Identical claims were rejected in the parent application under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 4,309,627 ("Tabata"). In particular, the Office Action stated that FIG. 4 of Tabata includes a curve shaping circuit A.

Applicants respectfully disagree. Claim 1 recites a curve shaping circuit that generates a reference voltage signal such that the reference voltage signal "initially increases with increases in the processor voltage signal and then decreases with a further increase in the processor voltage signal." One example of such a reference voltage signal is illustrated in FIG. 4 of the present application.

Nothing in Tabata discloses this type of reference voltage signal. Instead, circuit portion A in FIG. 4 of Tabata will initially increase and then remain substantially constant (not decrease) with a further increase in the processor voltage signal. Certainly, portion A would not decrease "substantially" with a further increase in the processor voltage signal as recited in claim 3.

Nor is such a feature obvious of Tabata. By initially increasing and then decreasing, the reference voltage signal may reduce the effect of noise on the circuit (specification, page 7, lines 3 through 12). Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at (203) 972-0191.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

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